

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8869

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS

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INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: FOLLOWING DEATH OF NWFP SENIOR MINISTER SHERPAO, RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN, WHICH HAD BEGUN TO SHOW SOME SLIGHT PROMISE OF IMPROVING, HAVE AGAIN DEGENERATED INTO A VERBAL SLUGFEST NOW ACCENTUATED BY GOP WARNINGS TO KABUL TO DESIST FROM INTERFERING IN PAK INTERNAL AFFAIRS. FIRST MFA PUBLIC LINKING OF KABUL TO SHERPAO'S DEATH, REPORTED IN PRESS FEBRUARY 16, CARRIED WARNING TO KABUL THAT "ITS IRRESPONSIBLE ACTIONS MIGHT REBOUND." MFA HAS ALSO ATTEMPTED TO TRACE KABUL'S COMPLICITY IN ASSASSINATION, BOTH IN BRIEFINGS TO FOREIGN MISSIONS AND IN AIDE MEMOIRE (SEP TEL) REPORTING CANCELLATION OF PLANNED TALKS BETWEEN GOP FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI

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AND AFGHAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH. FEDERAL

HOME MINISTER QAIYUM KHAN HAS THREATENED AFGHANS WITH RETALIATION IF "MISCHIEF NOT STOPPED FORTHWITH." ANNOUNCEMENT OF IMPOSITION OF GOVERNOR'S RULE IN NWFP (BEING REPORTED SEP TEL ATTRIBUTES DETERIORATION OF LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN FRONTIER TO "BLATANT INTERFERENCE IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS BY A FOREIGN POWER" (READ AFGHANISTAN). STUDENTS RALLIED AT AFGHAN EMBASSY HERE FEBRUARY 15 AND 17; CONDEMNED AFGHAN INTERFERENCE IN PAK INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND BURNED EFFIGIES OF PRESIDENT DAUD. SIGNIFICANT PORTIONS OF JANUARY 13 RADIO KABUL PUSHTU BROADCAST, MONITORED BY GOP, WHICH PAKS SAY BEGAN "COUNTDOWN ON SHERPAO'S LIFE" REPEATED PARAGRAPH SIX. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS, MFA SPOKESMAN FEBRUARY 16 STRONGLY CONDEMNED AFGHAN THREATS AND PERSISTENT INTERFERENCE IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. PAK TIMES, FEBRUARY 17, REPORTS THAT SPOKESMAN WAS COMMENTING ON GOA STATEMENT, BROADCAST BY RADIO KABUL ON FEBRUARY 13, WHICH "OPENLY CLAIMED RIGHT OF INTERFERENCE IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS." SPOKESMAN, IN REFUTING ALLEGED AFGHAN CLAIM, USED NOW STANDARD RHETORIC TO DESCRIBE AFGHAN REGIME, LABELLING IT AS "DENYING ITS PEOPLE THEIR ELEMENTARY RIGHTS" AND SUBJECTING THEM TO "RUTHLESS REPRESSION AND NAKED DICTATORSHIP." HE CHARGED AFGHAN GOVERNMENT WITH CARRYING OUT CAMPAIGN OF SUBVERSION IN PAKISTAN AND TRAINING AN ARMY OF TERRORISTS WHO ARE OPERATING IN PAKISTAN. GOA, HE ASSERTED, IS GIVING ASYLUM AND ASSISTANCE TO HOSTILE ELEMENTS AND ABSCONDEES FROM JUSTICE, INCLUDING AJMAL KHATTAK WHO DIRECTING CAMPAIGN OF TERRORISM FROM KABUL WITH FULL SUPPORT AND CONNIVANCE OF AFGHAN GOVERNMENT. CALLING ATTENTION TO RADIO KABUL'S "INFLAMMATORY BROADCASTS AND OPEN INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE WHICH HAD BEEN DIRECTLY AIMED AT BRUTAL ASSASSINATION OF SHERPAO," SPOKESMAN WARNED THAT "GOP STILL HOPES KABUL REGIME WOULD REALIZE DANGEROUS IMPLICATION OF ITS IRRESPONSIBLE ACTION WHICH COULD REBOUND AND SHAKE FRAGILE POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF AFGHANISTAN TO ITS VERY FOUNDATION."

2. ACCORDING PAK TIMES, FEBRUARY 18, HOME MINISTER QAIYUM KHAN, ADDRESSING PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 16TH IN PESHAWAR, WARNED "KABUL JUNTA" THAT ITS SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AGAINST PAKISTAN "WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED ANY LONGER" AND THAT "WE SHALL CERTAINLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RETALIATE IF MISCHIEF IS NOT STOPPED FORTHWITH." QAIYUM ASSERTED THAT "AFGHANISTAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN TRYING TO FOMENT TROUBLE IN PAKISTAN" AND THAT IT HAS BECOME BASE FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTS IN PAKISTAN FOR WHICH "SARDAR DAUD WAS ENTIRELY TO BLAME." "KABUL JUNTA MUST NOT FORGET THAT PAKISTAN HAS WILL AND RESOURCES TO DEFEND ITSELF" AND THAT "IT COULD ALSO CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR AFGHANISTAN. KAGOA HAS PROVIDED AMBASSADORIAL FACILITIES TO AJMAL KHATTAK, QAIYUM TOLD PRESS, BESIDES

TRAINING GUERILLAS AND TRYING TO INCITE PEOPLE TO VIOLENCE IN NWFP AND BALUCHISTAN. IT HAD ALSO TRIED TO INCITE THE TRIBESMEN BUT HAD MISERABLY FAILED. (EMBASSY ASSUMES LAST REFERENCE TO EARLY JANUARY TRIBAL INCIDENTS IN TIRAH REPORTED REFTTEL.)

3. GOP PRESS NOTE ISSUED FEBRUARY 17 REPORTING FEDERAL PROCLAMATION OF GOVERNOR'S RULE IN NWFP EXPLAINS SITUATION LEADING TO PROCLAMATION. ACCORDING PRESS, NOTE SAYS SITUATION IN FRONTIR LAST SEVERAL MONTHS CHARACTERIZED BY FREQUENT ACTS TERRISM AND SABOTAGE. "IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT PRIMARY CAUSE OF THIS DETERIORATION OF LAW AND ORDER IN PROVINCE IS BLATANT INTERFERENCE IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL UDDAIRS BY A FOREIGN POWER (READ AFGHANISTAN) WHICH BETRAYS TOTAL DISREGARD OF THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE OF SOVEREIGN STATES. SINCE FOREIGN NEIGHBORING FORCE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN DISRUPTING NORMAL LIFE IN PROVINCE. THERE CAN HARDLY BE ANY DOUBT THAT THIS IS SITUATION WHICH IS BEYOND POWER OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL" (THUS IMPOSITION OF GOVERNOR'S RULE). LEAD EDITORIAL, FEBRUARY 18 PAK TIMES WHICH COMMENTS ON GOVERNOR'S RULE, ALSO DRAWS AFGHAN CONNECTION AND LABELS SITUATION AS ONE "PAVING THE WAY FOR EXTERNAL AGGRESSION THROUGH INTERNAL DISTURBANCES."

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

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4. PRESS REPORTS PAKISTANI STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED OUTSIDE AFGHAN EMBASSY HERE FEBRUARY 15 AND 17 IN PROTEST AGAINST WHAT THEY LABELLED AS KABUL'S INTERFERENCE IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. STUDENTS ATTEMPTED DELIVERY MEMORANDUM TO AFGHAN DIPLOMATS WHO REFUSED TO RECEIVE IT; HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO PRESS, LOCAL OFFICIALS GAVE THEM ASSURANCES THAT MEMORANDUM WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO GOA THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. MEMORANDUM REPORTEDLY DENOUNCED KABUL'S BACKING OF "INHUMAN ACTIVITIES" OF SABOTEURS IN PAKISTAN AND GOA'S FIVING SHELTER TO AJMAL KHATTAK. POLICE REPORTEDLY STOPPED PROCESSION OF RAWALPINDI STUDENTS FROM JOINING ISLAMABAD DEMONSTRATION FEBRUARY 15. STUDENTS BURNED EFFIGIES OF PRESIDENT DAUD AT BOTH DAYS' RALLIES. WE UNDERSTAND THROUGH MFA SOURCES THAT STUDENTS HAD INITIALLY INTENDED OCCUPY EMBASSY BUT WERE DISSUADED BY PAK OFFICIALS.

5. LOCAL PRESS, BOTH ENGLISH AND VERNACULAR, GIVING PROMINENT PLAY TO PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS, WITHIN LAST TWO DAYS
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BANNER HEADLINING QAIYUM'S AND MFA'S WARNINGS TO KABUL. AMONG THE STRONGER EDITORIALS IN THE VERNACULAR PRESS WERE THE FOLLOWING:

IMROZE: "THE WARNING TO AFGHANISTAN WAS VERY TIMELY... GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN UP TO NOW HAS EXERCISED UTMOST RESTRAINT BUT NOW THE LIMITS OF THAT RESTRAINT HAVE BEEN REACHED."

MUSAWAT (PPP OWNED): "RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST AFGHANISTAN'S HOSTILE AND AGGESSIVE ACTION HAS BECOME INEVITABLE. RULING AFGHAN MILITARY CLIQUE HAS CROSSED ALL LIMITS AND UNLESS AND UNTIL IT IS GIVEN BEFITTING REPLY, IT WILL CONTINUE TO EMBARRASS PAKISTAN."

MASHRIQ (GOVERNMENT OWNED): "IF RULING AFGHAN CLIQUE DOES NOT GIVE UP ITS SHORTSIGHTEDNESS AND ENMITY TOWARDS PAKISTAN, THIS COUNTRY WILL HAVE TO TAKE RETALIATORY ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF ITS INTERESTS."

6. EMBASSY HAS PAK BROADCASTING COP. MONITORING REPORT ON KABUL RADIO IN PUSHTU AT 1930 FOR JANUARY 13, RECEIVED THROUGH MFA BEFORE SHERPAO KILLING, WHICH GOP SAYS "BEGAN COUNTDOWN ON HIS DEATH." SIGNIFICANT POINTS OF REPORT AS FOLLOWS:

"HATRED OF BALUCHIS AND PUKHTOONS AGAINST PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT IS EVIDENT FROM FREQUENT BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN REGION. WHENEVER AN EXPLOSION OCCURS IN PUKHTOONISTAN,

PUKHTOONISTAN'S PUPPET INTERIOR MINISTER (SHERPAO) WHO IS ALSO A PUKHTOON DELIVERS A SPEECH AND SAYS THAT HE WILL AWARD SEVERE PUNISHMENT TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS. HE FORGETS WHAT REWARD PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER WILL GIVE HIM. SHERPAO WHO IS THE FAVOURITE OF THE PAKISTANI RULERS IS FORGETTING FACT THAT NOTHING WILL SAVE HIM FROM ANGER OF NATION. IN ORDER TO PLEASE HIS PUNJABI-MUHAJIR MASTERS, SHERPAO HAS ADOPTED VARIOUS MEASURES AGAINST FREEDOM FIGHTERS BUT TIME IS NOT FAR WHEN NATION WILL DRAG HIM TO COURT TO GIVE ACCOUNT OF INJUSTICES HE HAS DONE TO NATION.

"THE RESIDENCE OF SHERPAO IS SURROUNDED BY POLICE AND IT LOOKS LIKE POLICE STATION. HE HAS SO FAR FAILED TO STOP THE MOVEMENT OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS. ONE EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE IN HIS HOUSE, THE SECOND IN HIS CHARSADEE MEETING, THE THIRD IN HIS SECRETARIAT AND THE FOURTH ONE AGAIN OCCURRED IN HIS HOUSE. ALL THESE EXPLOSIONS INDICATE THAT POLICE HAVE FAILED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN GUARDING SHERPAO. IF A PROVINCIAL INTERIOR MINISTER CANNOT FIND HIMSELF SAFE FROM BOMB EXPLOSIONS, HOW CAN HE PRESERVE THE LIFE AND PROPERTY OF OTHERS. IT SEEMS THAT MIAN BASHIR, IN HIS SYMPATHY WITH SHERPAO, HAS TOLD HIM THAT HE WILL BRING PUNJABI POLICEMEN FROM THE PUNJAB. BUT THE QUESTION ARISES HOW LONG SHERPAO WILL BE GUARDED BY PUNJAB POLICE AND HOW LONG WILL HE CARRY OUT HIS ASSIGNMENT ON THE SOIL OF PUKHTOONISTAN FOR HIS MUHAJIR-PUNJABI MASTERS. WHEN MUHAJIR-PUNJABI MASTERS WILL REALIZE THAT SHERPAO CAN NO MORE BE USED FOR THEIR INTERESTS, PUNJAB POLICE WILL RETURN TO PUNJAB AND SHERPAO WILL BE LEFT ALONE. PUNJAB POLICE IS NOT THE REMEDY. THERE ARE ONLY TWO ALTERNATIVES. EITHER HE SHOULD STOP EATING FLESH OF HIS NATION FOR THE SAKE OF MUHAJIR-PUNJABI GROUP OR HE SHOULD SHIFT TO ISLAMABAD TO LIVE IN THE STREETS OF HIS MASTERS. IF SHERPAO REMAINS, AS HE IS NOW, HIS LIFE ON THE SOIL OF PUKHTOONS WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE THE ENMITY OF THE NATION HAS NOW STARTED GIVING FLAMES."

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